Wages and hours of work in Factories.

233. Mr. K. M. Kunhi Moideen:— Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(1) how many hours the labourers have to work in the various Factories of the State;

(2) the wages they receive?

Mr. T. S. Narayana Ayyar:— (1) The longest hours of work in the various Factories of the State are 12 hours a day.

(2) The minimum wages now prevalent in the State are Re. 0—3—0.

Mr. K. M. Kunhi Moideen—With reference to sub-division (1) would the Government state the longest hours of work prevailing in British India?

Mr. T. S. Narayana Ayyar—Nine hours.

Mr. K. M. Kunhi Moideen—Do the Government think that the longest hours of work obtaining here is satisfactory?

Mr. T. S. Narayana Ayyar—No complaint has been received so far.

Mr. K. M. Kunhi Moideen:—Without a complaint cannot the Government take the initiative and see whether it is a satisfactory state of things?

Mr. T. S. Narayana Ayyar:—Government have enquired into the matter.

Mr. K. M. Kunhi Moideen:—What is the result of the enquiry?

Mr. T. S. Narayana Ayyar:—Government did not think that any action is necessary.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim:—Did you not promise in this Council that the Factory Law would be amended?

Mr. T. S Narayana Ayyar:—I don't remember to have made a promise.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim:—Even before your statement it was definitely promised in this House that the Factory Law would be amended. I think it is your predecessor who made that statement.

Mr. President:—The Hon'ble Member made it perfectly clear that the matter will engage the attention of the Government.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim:—Why is it then that you did not take any action during the last legislative sesssion?

Mr. T. S. Narayana Ayyar:—The matter is under consideration.

Mr. T. S. Balarama Ayyar:—Are there instances of 12 hours of work in this State? I believe there are only 10 hours of work.

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Mr. T. S. Narayana Ayyar:—12 hours is the longest period of work. But in practice there are not more than 10 hours.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim:—Does the Government recognise it as a failure of duty to amend the factory law?

Mr. T. S. Narayana Ayyar:—Certainly not.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim:—Is it not a breach of promise made?

Mr. T. S. Narayana Ayyar:—Absolutely not.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim:—Is it not a categorical statement? My question is why he did not keep up the promise? Are you in a position to say that you did not make a promise?

Mr. T. S. Narayana Ayyar:—What is the promise and what is to be kept up? There was no undertaking that the factory law would be amended in a fixed time. What was said was that it would be done as soon as possible.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim:—And for the last three meetings the Government did not bring in any measure.

Mr. T. S. Narayana Ayyar:—The expression "as soon as possible" is capable of different interpretation. The matter is one of opinion. Rome was not built in a day.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim:—This is not Rome building. Does this 3 as. wages afford a labourer a full life especially when he has a large number of non-working full family?

Mr. T. S. Narayana Ayyar:—It is a matter of opinion.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim:—Do the Government intend to fructify the kind assurance forecasted in the Diwan's address to this House by any legislative measure in this House or by means of any emergent legislation by the special powers vested in the Government?

Mr. T. S. Narayana Ayyar:—It is a matter for consideration. But they do intend to carry out any statement made in this House.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim:—In view of the fact that the next legislative session comes so far beyond will the Government consider the question whether some attempt could be made for legislation under the special powers vested in the Government?

Mr. T. S. Narayana Ayyar:—Government will look into the matter and do everything to expedite the same.

Head clerks—Registry Offices—charge allowance.

234. Mr. K. S. Manickam:— Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(a) are not Head clerks of Registry Offices statutorily authorised to hold full charge of office during the absence of the Registrar in addition to their own duties as Head clerks;

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